

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is **working with others**, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people

Role of the USFWS

- To ensure that projects are planned and implemented with **full and equal consideration** for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and related resources.
- Protect Public Trust Rights of use and enjoyment in and associated with navigable and other waters of the U.S.

Public Trust Applied to Resource Management

Public Resources should be protected for the benefit of present and future generations and be subject to infringement only when it can be demonstrated that some other need is paramount

Public Trust Resources

1. Migratory Birds
2. Inter-Jurisdictional Fishes
3. Endangered Species
4. Marine Mammals
5. Wetlands and other aquatic resources
6. Service Lands

Permit Review

Evaluate Resource Impacts of Proposed Action

- Direct
- Indirect
- Cumulative impacts
- Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Permit Review Cont'd

- Justification- demonstrable need
- Alternatives analysis
- Least damaging practicable alternative
- Avoidance/minimization measures
- LID techniques utilized*
- SOP calculations
- Mitigation proposal

Typical Project Types

- Development- residential, commercial, etc.
- Dredge
- Marinas, docks, etc.
- Roads
- Impoundments
- Utility transmission lines/pipes
- Beach re-nourishment
- Mitigation Bank Proposals

Projects often require consultation with other agency biologists

- Contaminants
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Coastal Program
- Safe Harbor
- Partners Program

Service Assistance

- Provide recommendations to further avoid/minimize impacts while still achieving project purpose
- Assist/Verify SOP calculations
- Provide mitigation recommendations

Helpful Hints

- Provide contiguous, appropriate sized buffers
- Provide migration corridors
- Avoid/minimize habitat fragmentation
- Preserve isolated wetlands whenever possible
- Avoid piece-meal approach

Speeding up the Process...

Provide necessary information

- Basic and overall project purpose
- Site location and coordinates
- Description of site- habitats and existing conditions
- Clearly identify impact sites
- T/E Survey
- Legible illustrations
- SOP worksheets

Really Speeding it up!

- Master planned projects
- Inter-Agency meeting
- Pre-Application site visit

Think Ahead

- Proper planning saves habitat and reduces population declines which assists in preventing listing species under the Endangered Species Act
- In other words...don't wait till it's broke to fix it....think preventive maintenance!

Take Home Message....

Work Together!!!

Early coordination and cooperation by all involved parties usually achieves the best results!